

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application.

REJECTIONS

Claims 1-3, 6 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baum et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,103,583) in view of Sansone, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,008,827). Finally, claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baum, et al. in view of Sansone, et al, as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Bass, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,041,319. For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

By way of this amendment, claims 1 and 5 have been amended to include the respective limitations of claims 11 and 12 and to further recite that the operator decides whether to replace the postal tariffs or data in the first table with the postal tariffs or data of the second table when a change therein has been identified. Indeed, it is the operator (step 34 of figure 3) who decides to replace or not the table of postal tariffs (page 6 line 24 to page 7 line 5).

This is in response to the Examiner's observation that the previously pending claims did not recite this feature of the invention. See ¶3 of the Final Office Action wherein the Examiner states "nowhere in the claim limitations there is a requirement for an update to take place only when action is taken by the operator".

Based on the foregoing, Applicant believes that the claims patentably distinguish over the prior art applied by the Examiner. As noted previously, in Baum the first table is automatically updated by the second table without any involvement by the operator.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner

feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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